



Tuesday 15 November 2016
Ph 1300 736 692

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia was held on Saturday 5 November at The Billabong Uniting Church. Lay and ordained members from our congregations and faith communities from around the Presbytery came together for fellowship and to discern the direction of the business of the Presbytery.

Opening worship and induction

Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (Congress) WA Regional Committee representative, Rev Sam Dinah gave the welcome to country in both English and the tongue of his Nyungar people.

Worship, led by The Billabong, began with a well-known song, 'You are my vision' sung with gusto and a modern, upbeat twist.

Rev Cathie Lambert shared a brief insight from the book *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See* by Richard Rohr. That to feel, imagine and sense the underlying mystery is to use our first, second and third eyes to assist us to see the moment and attain insight. Cathie challenged the members of Presbytery to view the work of God in our world and live God's covenant written on our hearts.

Deputy General Secretary, Rev Dr Ian Tozer's induction to the placement was conducted during worship. Ian's brief response quoted Rowan Williams, "The love of God is a love that goes where God is not supposed to be, where God is not imagined or conceived to be ... God's love is recognisable precisely as the love which goes where it has no business to go and which lives, blossoms and acts in the place of the curse, in the place where God is forgotten."

Opening Worship



Justine Wall's ordination approved



A joyful decision was the approval of the ordination of Justine Wall as a Minister of the Word, subject to obtaining a Certificate of Completion of Studies and being called to a placement.

Justine was unable to attend Presbytery, so her message was read. Justine shared her battle with God from childhood into her twenties, when she defined herself as an atheist. However, she was drawn to sacred places and to people of faith.

"One afternoon at Murdoch University, for no apparent reason, I felt compelled to knock on the door of the University chaplain. After listening to my long list of objections to Christianity and the church, the chaplain asked me what had brought me to his door, and I answered, God had. I was amazed at my own words," said Justine.

From this point, her faith continued to grow and deepen and she became Head of Religion, Ethics and Values at an Anglican girls' school. Justine experienced ministry for the first time when she filled in, after the school chaplain left, taking chapel services. She felt God's hand upon her and knew this was her purpose in life.

Justine has been the chaplain at Tranby College for the past six years. She has been blessed with the support of many Uniting Church people who have encouraged her on her journey towards ordained ministry. In particular, Rev Marion Millin, Rev Ivan Clarke and the congregation of Melville Uniting Church, and the chaplains of the WA Uniting Church schools.

"My path to ordination has not always been clear, but I do believe God has searched me out, hemmed me in and laid a hand upon me," said Justine.



New Structure

General Secretary, Rev David de Kock, summarised his report, 'Towards an understanding of the separation of the Synod of Western Australia and the Presbytery of Western Australia and/or any future presbyteries in Western Australia'.



**General Secretary,
Rev David de Kock
addresses the
Presbytery**

The Uniting Church WA has been moving towards a new structure which will enable two or more Presbyteries to exist with the Synod. Factors include the establishment of a Congress Presbytery, unfairness in dealing with matters of complaint, and confusion over the separate roles and responsibilities of Synod and Presbytery.

The implementation of the new structure followed a two-step process with agreement required from both the Synod of Western Australia and the Presbytery of Western Australia.

At the 40th Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia held in September, the new structure and By-Laws for Synod were agreed by consensus to be enacted at the rising of the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia on 5 November. Essentially, the changes were the cessation of General Council, the change in function, powers and responsibility of the Standing Committee and the establishment of a Placements Commission.

At the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia, the new structure for the Presbytery of Western Australia was introduced. Essentially, the changes were the creation of a Presbytery Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee, Presbytery Property Committee, as well as the election of a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The changes for both Synod and Presbytery were enacted simultaneously at the rising at the rising of the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia.

The joint commissions of the Synod and Presbytery:

Business Commission; Church Law Commission; Nominations Commission and Liturgy Commission, will derive a great deal of synergy from combining work across the committees. In addition, if and when other presbyteries are added, there will be cross-presbytery committees to serve across the presbyteries.

Presently, the Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL) will remain a Presbytery Committee until it can be set-up as a Synod body.

The changes to the By-Laws of Synod and Rules of Presbytery are largely cosmetic and bring the church in Western Australia back to the requirements of the Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia.

First Third Ministry

Rev Hollis Wilson, First Third Working Group chairperson, Rev Brenton Prigge, First Third Specialist South-West and Janine McDonald, First Third Officer gave a presentation to the Presbytery.

Brenton outlined how Busselton has seen progress in a truly unique context of almost eight years of uninterrupted First Third Ministry.

Eight years ago, Busselton was similar to many other Uniting Church congregations. On a Sunday, attendance averaged 60 people, most of retirement age. One or two families attended sporadically to bring children to Sunday School. There were no teenagers or young adults.

However, alongside the traditional Sunday worship, Busselton had a strong outreach program including a community op-shop and low cost food shop, but the connection between the church and the outreach programs were very tenuous and the gap was growing wider.

Brenton said, "The picture 8 years later is very different with attendance on Sundays growing to an average of more than 80 and it's not uncommon to have more than 100. This may not seem like huge growth, except when you factor in the two or three dozen funerals that have taken place over this period and the subtle, but definite



**Rev Hollis Wilson,
First Third
Working Group
Chairperson.**

shift in the age demographic. We still have people in the second third of life, but we now have a solid core of young families with children, as well as a small, but faithful, contingent of young adults. Hardly a week goes by that we don't have new people putting their toes in the water."

Sunday morning worship begins with all ages together led by a worship team of primarily teens. Youth worship time is separated into Godly Play for children under 12 and Youth Study time for young teens.

"These are healthy signs for a culture of faith formation and faith sharing. What you see on Sunday is only the tip of the iceberg of what we call the 'family', the people connected to the life of the Busselton Uniting Church," said Brenton.

Seldom is the church building empty during the week with a playgroup run by the church as a service to the community, Fresh Expressions in Messy Church services in Busselton and Nannup, and Followers' Inn café-style, low-cost lunches two days per week to foster relationships with those most in need in the community.

Community engagement is Busselton's greatest strength with the miraculous work of Julie Parry, Outreach Co-ordinator and Rev Andrew Broadbent bridging the divide between church members and the outreach community.

"We are a family that engages people of all ages, but people of all ages within the family are doing the engaging. We see ourselves as a family of God's people on a journey, some have been on the journey for a while, and others are just beginning. Some come to church on Sunday, others to Messy Church, and others are just beginning to ask faith questions, but we are all part of the family in the way we engage in the work and life of the church. Many of these ministries are now lay led and volunteer based, which frees up Andy and me to be resource people, mentoring, training and encouraging the people who do the real work," said Brenton.

Hollis outlined the redevelopment of the Uniting Church Campsite since its closure back in 2011/12 and invited everyone to attend the Uniting Church Campsite commissioning service at 12.30pm on Saturday 10 December at 140 Caves Road, Busselton.

Janine shared reasons to celebrate in an overview of her work as First Third Officer. These included the redevelopment of the Uniting Church Campsite; 160 campers, including the leadership development team at Kids Camp Out, and 11 Western Australians funded by First Third to attend the National Young Adult Leader's Conference (NYALC).

In January 2017, First Third Ministry will host 18 young adults on the WA Tour to the Yurora NCYC (National Christian Youth Convention) for young people aged 16 to 25 to be held at The Tops Conference Centre, NSW from Sunday 8 to Thursday 12 January 2017.

First Third Ministry Review

Travis Windsor, First Third Review convenor briefly highlighted some of the results of the review gathered through focus groups and an online survey.

Presbytery Standing Committee will carefully consider the content of this significant report and will report back to the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia to be held on Saturday 20 May 2017.

Deliberations and decisions

Candidates for Ministries Committee extension

The Presbytery agreed by consensus to give permission for Rev Anne McAndrew to serve as a member of the Candidates for Ministries Committee (CMC) for one more year, noting that Anne has already served on this Commission for the past 10 years.

CMC believes it will be helpful for Anne to continue for a further year on CMC to mentor and support new members of the committee.

Reception of reports to the Presbytery

The Presbytery accepted by consensus that in future, reports to the Presbytery will be received individually, rather than en bloc, to enable issues and questions to be addressed and discussed more effectively.

Presbytery of Western Australia structure

The Presbytery agreed, in principle, that from the rising of the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia, the structure of Presbytery, including its separate Chairperson,

**Rev Lorraine Stokes,
newly appointed
Chair of Presbytery**





Secretary, and Treasurer, be separated from the Synod as outlined in the Regulations.

Later in the meeting, Rev Lorraine Stokes was elected chairperson of the Presbytery of Western Australia and Rev Dr Ian Tozer was elected secretary. No nominations were received for the position of Presbytery Treasurer, so this position remains vacant.

Strategy and Mission Planning Committee

The Presbytery agreed by consensus to set aside the section of the new Presbytery of Western Australia Rules to establish a Mission Planning subcommittee of the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) and continue with the current Rules for Strategy and Mission Planning Commission (S&MPC), to allow time for further consultation about future directions, with a proposal to come to the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia to be held on Saturday 20 May 2017. Presbytery also accepted the nominations for the Mission Planning Subcommittee as the nominations for S&MPC.

Review of the Regions

The Presbytery agreed by consensus that the Presbytery Standing Committee undertake a review to clarify the roles, structure and purposes of Presbytery Regions and Regional Pastors and report to the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia to be held on Saturday 20 May 2017. The existence of a report on regions prepared by Placements Unit Manager, Rev John Barendrecht was noted.

Presbytery Rules

The Presbytery agreed by consensus to request the Presbytery Standing Committee make the review of the new rules regarding Presbytery structure, in consultation

with Presbytery Committees, a priority over the next six months in order to bring a report to the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Presbytery of Western Australia to be held on Saturday 20 May 2017.

Church Law

The Presbytery agreed to adopt the following Rules of the Presbytery: 1.1 Introduction of Rules of the Presbytery; 1.2 Enactment amendment and repeal of Rules; 2.1 Membership of Presbytery; 2.2 Presbytery meetings; 2.3 Presbytery regions; 2.4 Officers of the Presbytery; 2.5 Election of Presbytery Bodies; 3.1 Presbytery Standing Committee; 3.2 Pastoral Relations Committee (excluding sections 3.2.27 to 3.2.28 which relate to the Mission Planning Subcommittee); 3.3 Candidates for the Ministries Committee; 3.4 Property Committee; 3.5 Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership; 4.1 Congregational Community Services Committee; 4.2 Rural Ministry Committee; 4.3 First Third Committee; 4.3 Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Committee and 4.5 Liturgy Committee.

Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Committee

The Presbytery elected to the Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Committee the following members: Rev Jae Beom (David) Park; Kalo Fotu; Hanamoa Vaitogi; Rev Ciptomartalu Sapangi; and Rev Judy Sanderson. Rev Nalin Perera was nominated as chair.

Presbytery Committees & Joint Bodies

The Presbyteries and Joint Bodies Committee list is now available on the Uniting Church Website at <http://unitingchurchwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Presbytery-Joint-Bodies-Nominting-Committee-November-2016.pdf>

Please note there are still vacancies which need to be filled. Any new nomination received will be recommended to the Presbytery Standing Committee.

Congregational News

- **Trinity North Uniting Church** are holding a Spring Fashion Show on Saturday 19 November, 2.15pm, at St Stephen's School Duncraig. Entry will be by donation which includes afternoon tea and door prizes. For more info contact Dorothy Horton on 9305 3272 or Barbara Marshall on 9305 4693.
- **Village Artisan** is a Christian mission that works with poor communities in Northern India. They train both men and women to make fashion items which are then sold throughout the world through pop-up shops, open houses and their website. The money from the sales goes to supporting the workers, sponsoring children going to school, a health worker and other community initiatives. Uniting Church in the City (UCIC) are holding two pop-up shops, one on Wednesday 14 December in the UCIC Wesley Quarter, and the other on Friday 16 December in the UCIC Trinity Lunch Room. Both open from 10.00am. Visit www.perthunitingchurch.org.au for more details or call 6103 4222.

Presbytery & Synod of WA

- **The Great Southern Regional Gathering** is happening on Saturday 19 November, 10.00am to 3.00pm, at Albany Uniting Church, Duke St. Tea and coffee will be available from 9.30am. There will be an exciting line-up of speakers; come and share your news. There will also be a bring and share lunch. For more info contact Judy Ives at judyindsey48@gmail.com.
- **Summer Spirit** is the Uniting Church WA's major annual educational event. It will be held on Saturday 25 February 2017 at All Saints Floreat Uniting Church, with the theme 'Being church in new ways.' Rev Dr John Squires, who will be the new Director of Education and Formation for the Uniting Church WA, and Rev Elizabeth Raine will be the key-note speakers. Cost is \$90. Registration forms have been sent out in the Monthly Information Pack and can also be downloaded at <http://unitingchurchwa.org.au/blog/category/news/monthly-mail/>.
- **Community members are invited** to the Uniting Church Campsite Commissioning Service, followed by a light lunch on Saturday 10 December from 12.30pm at 140 Caves Road Busselton to celebrate the refurbishment of the site. A bus will leave the Uniting Church Centre travelling to, and returning from, the campsite on the day. Seats are limited. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/uniting-church-campsite-commissioning-service-tickets-28547465237> to RSVP by 30 November or visit <https://revivemagazine.org.au/2016/10/18/uniting-church-family-campsite-almost-ready-for-campers/> to read more.

UnitingCare and Congregational Community Services

- **UnitingCare Australia** has a new magazine examining key issues in social services and celebrating UnitingCare Australia's achievements throughout Australia. Visit <http://indepth.unitingcare.org.au/> to read the Spring issue.
- **A national forum** of 40 frontline UnitingCare service providers held in Sydney recently has committed to developing a national action plan to work with government to address housing and homelessness in Australia. Visit <https://revivemagazine.org.au/2016/10/31/unitingcare-redoubles-efforts-to-address-housing-and-homelessness/> to read more.
- **Juniper** has received Western Australia's premier award for occupational health and safety in the workplace. Vaughan Harding, Juniper's chief executive officer, said a strong culture of safety backed by comprehensive training and management systems ensured employees are equipped to do their jobs safely. Visit <https://revivemagazine.org.au/2016/10/31/juniper-wins-top-safety-accolade/> to read more.
- **On Friday 21 October UnitingCare West** held a fundraising Golf Day at the Royal Perth Golf Club. This was to raise funds for the development of a Therapeutic Garden for their young adults with disabilities and complex care needs who are living in supported accommodation. UnitingCare West would like to thank all who supported the day.
- **Juniper, a Uniting Church WA agency** providing residential and community aged care, are replacing a Cornish and Co pump organ at their St Andrew's residential site with a new digital piano. The pump organ is estimated to be more than 100 years old and is in working order. Juniper are happy to give the organ away to anyone who can pick it up from Balcatta. For more info contact Adrienne Inch at adrienne.inch@juniper.org.au.
- **The Target UnitingCare Christmas Appeal** launched in all Target stores across Australia on 3 November and runs through to 24 December. An official UnitingCare West launch will be held on Friday 18 November at 100 St George's Terrace, Perth. To support the appeal, consider donating new toys or canned food items with an expiry after April 2017. Items can be dropped off at the UnitingCare West Central Office in Victoria Park or gifts can be left at any Target store. Visit <https://revivemagazine.org.au/2016/11/03/turn-a-dollar-into-1-5m-this-christmas/> to read more.





From the National Church

- **The president of the Uniting Church in Australia, Stuart McMillan**, has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement of a national redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions. The scheme outlined by Social Services Minister Christian Porter will be led by the Commonwealth with states, territories and institutions invited to opt in on the principle that they fund the cost of their own redress claims. Visit <https://revivemagazine.org.au/2016/11/07/one-step-closer-on-national-redress-scheme/> to read more.
- **The president of the Uniting Church in Australia, Stuart McMillan** has spoken out against the Federal Government's proposed lifetime visa bans on certain people seeking asylum. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has announced legislation that will seek to prevent hundreds of people who arrived in Australia by boat seeking asylum after 19 July 2013 from ever re-entering Australia. The Uniting Church Presbytery of WA, at its recent Annual General Meeting, supported the campaign to block the proposed government legislation. Visit <https://revivemagazine.org.au/2016/11/07/refugees-deserve-compassion/> to read more.

Ecumenical & International

- **An Advent Retreat** will be led by Sally Longley, spiritual director and retreat leader at the Canisius Centre for Ignation Spirituality in Sydney on Saturday 26 November, 9.30am to 3.30pm, at Nathaniel's Rest, Mundaring. Sally has led numerous retreats using labyrinths and has witnessed the deep ways in which God has used prayer in the labyrinth for healing, restoration, discernment and new beginnings. Cost is \$40, \$25 concession. BYO lunch. To register email info@dayspring.org.au.
- **Each gift from TEAR's Useful Gifts Catalogue** contributes to a more just and sustainable world. This Christmas, give life-giving gifts like pre-school classes, chickens, safe water, toilets and something from their new Build a Village range. For more info visit <https://www.usefulgifts.org/>.

Community

- **Social Reinvestment WA** is a new group aiming to reduce the number of contacts that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the criminal justice system, whilst ensuring that all systems address the underlying causes of these contacts. They want WA to become a leader in promoting community safety, social well-being and inclusive justice for all people. Visit <http://www.socialreinvestmentwa.org.au/> to find out more.

- **You are invited** to an evening with renowned WA poet, Dennis Haskell. Dennis will talk about the journey he shared with his wife, Rhonda, as they became unwilling travellers at the end of her life. Death over Dinner is an international movement to encourage conversations about the end of life around the dinner table, rather than in the Intensive Care Unit when it is too late. It will be held on Tuesday 29 November, 6.00pm, at Joondalup Resort. Cost is \$69, including a buffet dinner. Visit <http://pcwa2016.webs.com/pre-conference-dinner> for more info and to register.
- **The Conservation Council WA** are holding their annual State Conference and AGM from Saturday 19 to Sunday 20 November. Be inspired by experts, community leaders and campaigners; be motivated to take action in the lead-up to the State Election; and get excited to use new skills in online and offline lobbying. Visit http://www.ccwa.org.au/ccwa_annual_state_conference_agm_2016 for more info.

Jobs: Paid and Volunteer

unitingchurchwa.org.au/services/giving-backemployment-paid-and-volunteer/

The Pastoral Relations and Placements Commission (PR&PC) webpage is available to view all vacant placements, by-laws, ministry changes and pastoral and placement updates. Visit <http://unitingchurchwa.org.au/pastoral-relations-and-placements-commission>.

APCEP English Language Teachers

The Australian Papuan Cultural Exchange Program (APCEP) introduces Papuan students to the Australian language and culture. Students are hosted in private homes while they learn about Australian culture and study English with the help of volunteer teachers. Volunteer English teachers are sought for the 2017 APCEP, which will run from 13 February–5 May. Teachers are asked to teach for one half day per week, teaching experience is desired but not necessary. For more info contact Jan Thorpe on 0406 400 170 or email jpthorpe@westnet.com.au.

Minister of the Word/Deacon

Applications are invited for a Minister of the Word/Deacon to fill a vacant placement with the Albany Regional Congregations, comprising Albany, Lockyer (suburban Albany), Denmark and Mt Barker Uniting Churches. This single ministry placement is supported by a willing team of lay leaders, lay preachers and committed congregations. Visit <http://unitingchurchwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/ADVERTISING-FOR-A-PLACEMENT-VACANCY-ALBANY-Final-June-2016.jpg> for more info, or email Rev John Barendrecht at john.barendrecht@wa.uca.org.au.



The Ministry Resourcing Centre is located in the Uniting Church Centre, 85–89 Edward Street, Perth and is open Monday to Friday 8.30am–5.00pm. Contact Margaret Johnston on 9260 9800 or email resource@wa.uca.org.au.

Advent: A Calendar of Devotions 2016, by Dale Clem. This popular booklet of daily devotions is designed for every family or individual in the congregation to have a copy. Contains a brief reading for each day, including suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a closing prayer. Easy to post out to friends unable to come to church, or as an alternative to a Christmas card. **\$2.00.**

Companions on the Bethlehem Road: Daily readings and reflections for the Advent Journey by Rachel Boulding. These readings and reflections for Advent and Christmas are based around the spiritual insights collected from poets of the past such as Eliot, Herbert, Tennyson and Auden. Their questions about God, love, hope and suffering remain the same and reveal much about life and faith today. **\$17.75**

The Barefoot Boys of Werribee: The untold story of the Methodist Home by those who were there, compiled by Daphne Goulding, Helen Creagh and Tom Jenkins. Due to increased interest we are pleased to announce that this important book has been reprinted. **\$25.00**

Blessed and Called to Be a Blessing: Muslim-Christian Couples Sharing Life Together, by Helen Richmond. The narratives and testimonies of the couples in this study invite the question of whether Muslims and Christians who have viewed each other as intimidating opponents might instead regard each other as fellow pilgrims and partners in God's work in the world. **\$30.00**

The Go-Anywhere Thinline Bible, NRSV. "A Bible that is less than one inch thick". The type is clear 9-point type on good quality paper, and in a double column setting. A concordance for finding key verses, presentation page and maps are included. **\$35.00**

All prices plus postage.

Prayer Calendar

For the week commencing Sunday 20 November:

Please pray for the Narrogin Group (Cuballing and Narrogin) and Brookton congregations. Please also pray for the Presbyterian Church of India and Church of North India.

For the week commencing Sunday 27 November:

Please pray for the Wagin Group (Collanilling, Darkan, Dumbleyung and Wagin congregations.) Please also pray for the Synod of Queensland.

For the week commencing Sunday 4 December:

Please pray for the Moora Parish Council (Badgingarra, Miling and Moora congregations). Please also pray for Hope Community Services Inc.



Calendar of Events



For more information on these events visit www.unitingchurchwa.org.au

Saturday 19 November	10.00am–3.00pm	Great Southern Regional Gathering at Albany Uniting Church, Duke Street.
Saturday 19 November	2.15pm	Spring Fashion Show at St Stephen's School, Duncraig.
Saturday 19 November	8.00pm	Christians with Pride in the Perth Pride Parade in Northbridge.
Sunday 20 November	9.00am	Commissioning Service for Moira Mathie at Beldon-Iluka Uniting Church.
Sunday 20 November	3.30pm	A Christmas Potpourri Variety Concert at Uniting Church in the City, Ross Memorial, West Perth.
Saturday 26 November	10.00am–3.00pm	Quiet Day at Margaret River Uniting Church.
Saturday 26 November	9.30am–3.30pm	Advent Retreat at Nathaniel's Rest, Mundaring.
Sunday 27 November	10.45am	Variety Concert at Willetton Uniting Church.
Monday 28 November		Synod Standing Committee.
Friday 2 December	1.00pm	Free music recital at Uniting Church in the City, Wesley Perth.
Sunday 4 December	9.30am	Scarborough Uniting Church 50th anniversary celebration at Scarborough Uniting Church.
Saturday 10 December	12.30pm	Uniting Church Campsite Commissioning Service at the Uniting Church Campsite, Busselton.
Wednesday 14 December	10.00am	Village Artisan Pop-up shop at Uniting Church in the City, Wesley Quarter.
Friday 16 December	10.00am	Village Artisan Pop-up shop at Uniting Church in the City, Trinity Lunchroom.
Sunday 16 December	1.00pm	Free music recital at Uniting Church in the City, Wesley Perth.
Tuesday 3 January		Uniting Church Centre re-opens for 2017.
Friday 6 January		Revive contribution deadline.
Sunday 8–Thursday 12 January		Yurora, National Christian Youth Convention, NSW.

If you are planning an event that you think would be of interest to other people in the Uniting Church community, let us know so we can put it in our calendar. We would also encourage you to contact us during your planning so you can check what other people are doing to avoid diary conflicts.